GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:423
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2005
ANTI RETROVIRAL TREATMENT
Singh Shri Chandra Bhushan

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Health Organisation`s (WHO) initiative to provide drugs to HIV/AIDS infected patients has achieved the Global targets ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether WHO`s assessment at the end of 2004, regarding India joining South Africa and Nigeria on the list of countries that have made insufficient progress in expanding an anti-retroviral treatment is true;

(d) if so, whether the Government is considering to create strong partnerships internationally and within the country to extend anti-retroviral medicines to all those who need it ; and

(e) if so, the steps taken / being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b)According to the joint media release by WHO/UNAIDS/Global Fund/U.S. Government on January 26, 2005, 3x5 initiative (3 million patients on ART by end of 2005) have claimed to have achieved interim target set for putting the AIDS patients on anti-retroviral treatment by the end of the year 2004. The number of patients put on treatment till the end of 2004 was 7 lakh.

(c) According to WHO/UNAIDS estimates at the end of 2004, 41% of the globally unmet need for AIDS treatment is contributed by 3 countries namely India, South Africa and Nigeria as out of 48 lakh remaining patients to be put on ART globally, 19.68 lakh is contributed by these three countries. India accounts for 14% of the global unmet need.

(d) & (e) Government has created a strong partnership internationally and within the country to extend anti-retroviral medicines free of cost. Steps taken in this regard are as under:

$In the round-IV GFATM has approved grant of US$ 140.898 million to India under expansion of ART services for the next 5 years. Under round-III also GFATM approved an award of US$ 14.8 million for HIV-TB project in India for 5 years. Under round-II GFATM has approved an award of US$ 100.08 million for prevention of parent to child transmission of HIV in India for a period of 5 years.

$MOU has been signed with Clinton Foundation in the year 2004 which will help in strengthening of ART services in India by their assistance for training, laboratories, monitoring, supervision, capacity building etc. $UNDP & WHO are providing support for capacity building. Support has also been arranged from USAIDS, DFID, CIDA for prevention of HIV/AIDS which also helps in identification of patients and referral for ART services.
$World Bank assisted NACP-II project is already being implemented.
$Preparation has also started for development of NACP-III proposal.